

REMARKS

Applicants' undersigned attorney thanks the Examiner for her comments. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this patent application, particularly in view of the above Amendment and the following remarks. Currently, Claims 1-6 are pending.

The invention is a process for preparing a vanadyl sulphate solution which includes forming a suspension of vanadium trioxide in a sulfuric acid solution and contacting the vanadium trioxide suspension with a strong oxidizing agent under controlled conditions to produce the vanadyl sulphate solution.

Amendment to the Claims

Claims 1-6 have been examined with Claim 1 being objected to and Claims 2-6 being rejected.

The preamble of Claim 1 has been amended to recite a process for producing a vanadyl sulphate solution including three steps.

Claim 2 has been amended to recite a proper Markush group for the strong oxidizing agent.

Interview Summary

Applicants' attorney thanks the Examiner for the telephone interview on 25 January 2006. In response to the telephone inquiry by Applicants' undersigned attorney, the Examiner confirmed that the foreign priority claim was proper. Specifically, the subject application is a 35 U.S.C. §371 application of PCT/IB03/02002 filed on 26 May 2003. The PCT application properly and timely claimed priority to South African Patent Application 2002/4382 filed on 31 May 2002. Thus, no further action is required by the Applicants.

Declaration

Applicants herewith submit a newly executed Combined Declaration, Power of Attorney and Petition identifying the citizenship of each inventor and identifying this application by serial number and filing date.

Drawings

Applicants herewith submit a replacement drawing sheet including Figure 1 and a new drawing sheet including Figure 2. As suggested by the Examiner,

each figure is now presented on its own sheet and the quality and scale of each drawing has been appropriately increased.

Claim Objections

The preamble of Claim 1 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner to recite "a process for producing a vanadyl sulphate solution including the steps of..."

In view of the above amendment, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §112

The rejection of Claims 2-6 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention, is respectfully traversed.

Claim 2 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner to recite that "the strong oxidizing agent is selected from the group consisting of..."

For at least the reasons presented above, amended Claim 2 is definite. Because Claims 3-6 depend from Claim 2, these claims are also definite. Thus, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Conclusion

Applicants believe that this case is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner feels that any issues remain, then Applicants' undersigned attorney would like to discuss the case with the Examiner. The undersigned can be reached at (847) 490-1400.

Respectfully submitted,



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